Guru Gobind Singh Oil Refinery

*18. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the status of Guru Gobind Singh Oil Refinery at Bhatinda in Punjab as on date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): About 2,000 acres land has been acquired for the project. The detailed pipeline route survey of the proposed crude oil pipeline from Gujarat to Bhatinda has been completed. Various environmental approvals for the project have also been obtained except the environmental approval for the Crude Oil Terminal, Pipeline and Single Point Mooring which is under processing by Ministry of Environment & Forests. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is on the look out for a Joint Venture partner for the project.

Lifting of Ban on Sanctions Imposed by US

†*19. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government have given assurance to withdraw all the sanctions imposed on India after the Pokharan explosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the sanctions are likely to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) In partial exercise of the waiver authority under the Defence Appropriations Act 2000, the US lifted restrictions on 27th October 1999, on US EXIM Bank, OPIC and TDA activities; International Military Education and Training Programme (IMET); the lending by US Banks to the Government of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.